



BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY

AS/Bur/CB (2017) 09

5 September 2017

To the Members of the Assembly

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 4 September 2017

The Bureau of the Assembly, meeting on Monday 4 September 2017 in Paris, with Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EC), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Communication by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe:** took note of the communication;
- **Election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights:** took note of the calendar for the election of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and asked the Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to organise, through its Sub-Committee on Human Rights, the interviews of candidates in time for the Assembly's first part-session of 2018, preferably in December 2017;
- **Fourth part-session of 2017 (Strasbourg, 9-13 October):** drew up the draft agenda;
- **Formation of a new political group: Free Democrats Group:**
 - took note of letters by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom, EC), Chairperson of the EC Group, Ms Adele Gambaro (Italy, NR), and Mr Talip Küçükcan (Turkey, EC), Chairperson of the Turkish delegation to the Assembly;
 - acknowledged the formation of the Free Democrats Group in line with Rule 19 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
 - asked the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs whether, in line with the Rules and in view of the documents submitted to the Bureau on 30 June 2017, the date of the acknowledgment of the Group should be defined as 30 June 2017 or 4 September 2017;
- **Election observation:**
 - i. *Albania: parliamentary elections (25 June 2017):* approved the report of the ad hoc committee;
 - ii. *Kyrgyzstan: presidential election (15 October 2017):* took note of the invitation to observe this election;
- **2017 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:** took note of the shortlist made by the Selection Panel at its meeting in Prague on 28-29 August 2017, consisting of (in alphabetical order):
 - Mr Murat Arslan (Turkey);
 - Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Hungary);
 - Father Georg Sporschill (Austria);

- **Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the work of the Assembly:** took note of the letter by Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, concerning the #InspiringWomen initiative, as well as of the memorandum prepared by the Secretary General of the Assembly in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee;
- **Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2018:** approved the proposals contained in the document (Appendix);
- **Other business:**
 - i. *Letter by Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC), Chairperson of the Swedish delegation to the Assembly:* took note of the letter concerning the issue of General Rapporteurs in the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination;
 - ii. *Guidelines on working methods and procedures of the independent external investigation body to look into allegations of corruption within the Parliamentary Assembly:* was informed of the guidelines established by the investigation body;
- **Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities:** took note of the report by Mr Andrea Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) on his participation in the 26th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Minsk, Belarus, from 5 to 9 July 2017;
- **Meetings of the Bureau and the Standing Committee in Copenhagen (23-24 November 2017):** took note of the draft programme;
- **Meetings elsewhere than Strasbourg and Paris:** authorised:
 - the Sub-Committee on relations with the OECD and the EBRD (of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy) to meet in London on 26 October 2017;
 - the Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media) to meet in Budapest on 6 December 2017;
 - the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize (of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development) to meet in Lublin, Poland, on 25-26 September 2017;
- **Dates and places of next meetings:**

Monday, 9 October 2017, Strasbourg at 8 am;
Friday, 13 October 2017, Strasbourg at 8.30 am;
Thursday, 23 November 2017, Copenhagen, 2.30 pm;
Friday, 15 December 2017, Paris at 9 am

Sonia Sirtori

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Director and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Appendix**Meetings of the Standing Committee and the Bureau in 2018****Proposals for dates¹**

Monday 22 January, 8.00 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 26 January, 8.30 am Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Thursday 15 March, 3.00 pm, Paris	Bureau (to be confirmed)
Friday 16 March, 9.30 am, Paris	Standing Committee (to be confirmed)
Monday 23 April, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 27 April, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
End of May, Croatia	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Chairmanship)
Monday 25 June, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 29 June, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Monday 3 September, 9 am, Paris	Bureau
Monday 8 October, 8.00 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
Friday 12 October, 8.30 am, Strasbourg (part-session)	Bureau
End of November, Finland	Bureau and Standing Committee (CM Chairmanship)
Friday 14 December, 9.00 am, Paris	Bureau

¹ Dates of meetings due to be held elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris are subject to the agreement of the Parliament of the country concerned.